

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7553.0019-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of)
Application No.: 09/720,910)
)
Inventors: Chishio KOSHIMIZU et al.)
) Prior Group Art Unit: 1763
Serial No.: Not yet assigned)
) Prior Examiner: P. Hassanzadeh
Filed: October 2, 2003)
)
For: PLASMA PROCESSING)
APPARATUS AND PLASMA)
PROCESSING METHOD)

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents were either previously submitted by Applicants or cited by the Examiner in a prior application, Application No. 09/720,910, filing date January 2, 2001, upon which Applicants rely on for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO 1449.

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The following are listed on the accompanying Form PTO 1449 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Publication No. 05217951;
2. Japanese Publication No. 07310187;
3. Japanese Publication No. 10050665;
4. Japanese Publication No. 09129612;
5. Japanese Publication No. 07245292.

With regard to documents 1-4, in lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, English language abstracts of documents 1-4 were enclosed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 2, 2001 in parent Application No. 09/720,910. Also, an English language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this application claims priority, citing documents 1-4 and setting forth the relevance thereof was also enclosed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 2, 2001 in parent Application No. 09/720,910. With regards to document 5, the relevance thereof was cited by the Examiner in the Office Action dated February 5, 2003 in parent Application No. 09/720,910. However, solely in an abundance of caution, Applicants submit herewith an English language abstract of Japanese Publication No. 07245292.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law,

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Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 2, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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|------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Atty. Docket No. | 7553.0019-01 | Appln. No. | Not yet assigned |
| Applicant | Chishio KOSHIMIZU et al. | | |
| Filing Date | October 2, 2003 | Group: | Not yet assigned |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
| | 5,290,381 | 3/1994 | Nozawa et al. | | | |
| | 5,547,539 | 8/1996 | Arasawa et al. | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No |
| | 05217951 | 8/1993 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 07245292 | 9/1995 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 07310187 | 11/1995 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 10050665 | 2/1998 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 09129612 | 5/1997 | Japan | | | Abstract |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | |
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| Examiner | Date Considered |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |
| Form PTO 1449 | Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce |